

RED

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North Korea fires a missile. Imperialists panic!

On April 13, the North Korean stalinist dictatorship attempted to launch a missile into space. It crashed soon after liftoff. Their purpose, they claim was peaceful to survey the resources of the DRK from a satellite. The imperialists have responded with condemnation. We agree that the motives of the Kim clique are peaceful. We defend their right to test missiles anyway.

The imperialists are not against testing, they are only against testing by those countries which they don't like. "Good countries" such as Israel are allowed to have nuclear weapons. Countries which inconvenience US foreign policy, such as Iran and North Korea, are not. Yet neither Iran nor North Korea have invaded any other country. The US has made this international law. These missile tests have been condemned by the UN Security Council.

The US has also tightened trade sanctions. Depriving North Korea of much needed food.

Whilst North Korea is bureaucratically degenerated it is a country which has broken from capitalism.

Revolutionary communists defend North Korea against imperialism, unconditionally

This month marks the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Kim Il Sung. For the North Korean bureaucrats this is cause for celebration. This anniversary is being used to rally the faithful, to once again show the masses of that country that the Stalinist state is powerful and moving forward. Their new leader Kim Jong On also wants to establish his credentials as a leader who can stand up to the west. What better way to do this than by launching a missile into space?

The US imperialists claim the North is launching a ballistic missile. Even if this isn't such a missile, they fear that this is part of the North's programme to develop such a missile..

They are indeed angry and threatening. Also frightened are Japan and South Korea who are in striking distance of any missile attack from the DRK. They are threatening to shoot down any missile which flies over their claimed territory.

The DRK has no claims on any foreign territory unlike Israel whose weapons of mass destruction the imperialists endorse.

The DRK is considered a bit of a basket case. It seems mad to some to arm your country to the teeth when you cannot even feed your own people. We think their behavior is very logical. It is the logic of Stalinism, socialism in one country.

There is only one defense for any revolution and that is the spreading of revolution internationally. That is why the Communist Left calls for a Fifth Communist International. The Stalinist alternative is arming the country to the teeth. The North Korean Stalinists have pursued this logic and the result is the garrison state run by a reactionary bureaucratic Stalinist caste.

The bureaucrats will fight tooth and nail any attempt to spread the revolution internationally, therefore we must overthrow the bureaucrats. **Political revolution for North Korea!**

It must be pointed out that North Korea has suffered from the collapse of the Soviet Union and betrayed by the Chinese bureaucrats.

We have no sympathy for the Kim bureaucracy. It is a fully blown cult of personality. It is a military dictatorship which suppresses and even kills the workers and peasants of North Korea.

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We too want to overthrow the Kim bureaucracy. The point is how to do this and who should do this. In no way do we allow the imperialists to do this. The method supported by us Trotskyists is political revolution which means overthrow of the bureaucracy by the workers and peasants of that country to create a healthy workers state.

The Transitional Programme of the Fourth The International, written by Leon Trotsky predicted that under some circumstances non-proletarian forces including the stalinists can break from capitalism and establish states transitional to the dictatorship of the proletariat. This happened in North Korea.

North Korea is a workers and peasants state with nationalised property relations. We want to defend these property relations from both the imperialists and internal counter-revolution. The only force we entrust to overthrow the reactionary Kim clique is the workers and peasants of that country.

Greece faces austerity.

An election has been called for May the ninth. Effectively this is a referendum on the EU austerity agenda. The expected outcome is a coalition between the conservatives of New Democracy and the so-called socialist PASOK party. Both are united in their commitment to impose EU austerity onto the Greek population, especially the working class.

There is strong opposition from large sections of the Greek population so far left parties including the Stalinist KKE and the fascist LAOS, are expected to gain at their expense. However both the conservatives and socialists are committed to push their agenda and form some sort of coalition government, official or unofficial. The Greek people will indeed suffer.

The demands of the EU are indeed oppressive. They include a reduction in the minimum wage, a twenty percent reduction in those employed by the public service and a massive reduction in the old age pension.

The imperialist demands have yet to fully hit the masses. They come on top of austerity measures

Irrespective of the gross bureaucratic distortions in the DRK, the nationalised property relations are a major gain for the revolution internationally. We must not allow the imperialists to take control of that country. Their agenda is plunder. They want the resources of that country. They want to super-exploit North Korean wage labour. This we must stop. Therefore we must defend North Korea unconditionally!

already imposed on the Greek people imposed over the past four years.

Things, at the moment are already tough. Unemployment is officially twenty percent by probably much higher. Youth unemployment is about fifty percent. This is according to official figures! The real proportion is probably much high as many are living off savings and not registering. Athens is a city of many soup kitchens. But these are under threat as the city council which runs them is running short of money and is threatening to lay off their workers. Where will unemployed and homeless go for food after that happens? No doubt many will be scrounging through garbage cans searching for edible rubbish in scrap heaps. Many will also starve!

In Greece as in many countries, the conservatives are using racism as a weapon to tie workers and middle class people to the system. This is assisting the fascists who will no doubt attack the refugees far more efficiently. Immigration controls must be opposed unconditionally. Fascism must be fought physically.

Revolution or death! Well the death is happening now. Hospitals suffer from lack of staff and

treatment facilities. Many are homeless. There is a massive increase in the number of those who suicide. All this will get worse!

In this election the two major parties, PASOK and New Democracy are standing as agents of EU austerity will act in defense of the EU. They are expected to form government. The left opponents, including the Stalinists, and also the far right LAOS counter-pose the drachma, a capitalist Greece out of the EU. This will mean a different variation of hardship, Revolutionary communists counter-pose the revolution!

The attacks on Greek working class people have already been massive and there is more to come. Greek workers must be organised and vigilant. To be successful, defensive actions must be linked to a revolutionary programme. Workers must break from bourgeois parties, reformists and Stalinists. The imperialists are watching nervously. Currently it is predicted that this election might be a close one.

Queensland state elections. Bligh Labor smashed!

Four years ago, Anna Bligh was elected Premier of Queensland. She was the first woman to achieve office as leader of a state through an election in this country. Previous female leaders have been appointed and lost the subsequent election.

This year she led Labor to the biggest electoral thrashing in Australia's history. Labor only has seven seats left which is not enough to demand recognition as a party. Labor is only recognised as such courtesy of the new Liberal/National Premier, Campbell Newman.

Labor won about twenty eight percent of the vote and therefore deserved far more seats than they won. There is still a massive gerrymander in Queensland against Labor.

Her demise started with the massive asset sales of government utilities such as the railways. She had no mandate for this and the Queensland electorate has basically not forgiven her. She remains totally unrepentant claiming she acted in the state interest. Well she has paid a high price for the interests of

If the New Democracy/PASOK alliance win it may be only with a small majority over the combined EU opponent parties both on the left and on the right. They fear instability. We hope it all blows up in their face. We want a revolutionary Greece. Over the past three years there has been much heroic militancy. This has included general strikes. This militancy has not gone anywhere. To go somewhere it must have political direction. This comes from a revolutionary communist party. It is only the socialist revolution which will liberate the Greek proletariat, freeing them from austerity. Greece is not the only country facing EU austerity. There should be international solidarity with the workers of Portugal, Spain. Italy and elsewhere. In fact it should be extended throughout the EU.

Down with the EU!

Forward to a united socialist states of Europe!

It is a matter of urgency that Greek workers, break with the reformists and Stalinists and forge a revolutionary communist party

capitalism. Labor has been totally smashed and will take decades to recover, if it does so at all.

There were other factors which contributed to the smashing. The election of Campbell Newman was a master stroke. One thing which has favoured Labor

in the past has been the Brisbane factor. Brisbane has been suspicious of the Liberal National Parties as too much under the control of the country and backward.

Well Campbell Newman is Brisbane based. He was Lord Mayor of that city and is popular. Known as "can do Campbell" he, like Abbott claims to be an action man. His action is action for developers, the capitalists and the speculators. This means destruction of communities, low income housing, the environment, unions and the wages and conditions of workers. Now he has power, he will use it against workers and ordinary people.

There were many other factors which contributed to Bligh's demise. Like other states Queensland has a lack of infrastructure. As it has been in power

for most of the past twenty years, Labor gets the blame for this.

Queensland is a mining state but it also a tourism state. The tourism industry has been hit by the high Aussie dollar. As a result there have been significantly less tourists and workers have been laid off. Queensland has a rate of unemployment of 5.7% This is higher than the nation's average rate of just over 5%. Campbell Newman says he aims to reduce this to 4%. We don't believe he can.

There was also scandals in Queensland Health and gaffes by Bligh ministers. These have also contributed. Also Labor had been in a long time and had overstayed its welcome.

The other serious contender was Bob Katter's Australian Party. Bob's party basically targeted the leftovers of both the old Country Party and One Nation. They won two seats though they lost their leader who held the seat of Beaudesert. One of their ads, obviously pandering to backward voters attacked gay marriage, pointing out it was supported by Anna Bligh and Campbell Newman. Gay marriage is a federal issue and though supported by Newman it is overwhelmingly opposed by the Lib/Nats. No doubt this helped them win support of those who backed One Nation. Katter's party also campaigned as the only major party opposing

privatisation. This no doubt helped them win over working class voters and win the working class electorate of Mt. Isa.

Tony Abbott blames the Gillard government's mining tax. This is convenient for him as his mantra is to oppose this tax. We don't think this tax was a serious factor at all. Queensland is very state oriented and the issues concerned were state issues, Gillard may suffer from those who may consistently turn against Labor.

So what now for Labor in Queensland? Well Bligh has given voters very little reason to vote for it. In no way is Labor a socialist party (however we might define socialism). In no way is Labor a party of the union movement. In no way is Labor a party of the public sector as Bligh Labor has privatised even more than previous National governments. Farmers are hardly likely to be attracted to a party exposed as impotent. And with Campbell Newman as leader in no way can it pick up support as the enlightened city party. Of course the LNP might come unstuck. But it has a massive buffer

The prospects for Labor are very grim indeed Yet this demise is a product of the logic of reformism. We suggest concerned Labor supporters draw an appropriate balance sheet of reformism and break to form a revolutionary party.

BHP Billiton closes a mine in Central Queensland

BHP Billiton plans closure of Norwich Park coalmine near the Central Queensland town of Dysart. This will be devastating for the workers concerned, it will also be devastating for the town of Dysart itself as most of the jobs there are connected to the mine, providing the workers with services. Of course under capitalism, multinational corporations have the power to be destructive. We must stop them.

BHP claim the mine has been unprofitable since late last year. They point to the flood and to the high Australian dollar. They also point the finger at the unions, the CFMEU which has organised a strike campaign throughout the Queensland coalfields. Norwich Park has hardly been a hotbed of union militancy as has been suggested by the media. Their demands have been modest. They want properly

paid health and safety workers and they want workers for subcontractors to be paid the same as other employees. The CFMEU seems to be under the impression that if you modest and responsible, the bosses won't attack you. The threatened closure of Norwich Park shows otherwise.

These closures are serious and must be fought. This means:

Open the books! Workers should not believe BHP when they prattle about "uneconomic coal mine". We should see the data for ourselves. There is no denying that the other mines in the Bowen Valley are extremely profitable and BHP is enjoying a massive profit.

Build factory committees! To resist the boss's attacks, workers must be organised on the job. Factory committees are the basic organisation of workers democracy.

Every job must be defended! No worker should be allowed to be chucked out the gate! This requires militant action by workers.

For a shorter working week without loss of pay! If there is low productivity then workers should not be forced to pay for it. The shorter working week shares the work around at the boss' expense!

Death agony of the "Occupy" movement

The "Occupy" movement is dwindling. Yes it is still kicking. In many cities, including Sydney, the camps are still there. In other cities they have been removed by the cops. Yes it is doing some good work promoting class struggle and a vision of a decent society based on real democracy. But one thing is clear: their fundamental objective of uniting the ninety nine percent against the one percent will not be achieved by the movement.

Some will sort of play down this pointing out that revolutionary movements have their ups and downs and this is true. What these people fail to state is that this down turn, in the case of "Occupy" is a fundamental failure of strategy. These people in Sydney include revisionist groupings such as Solidarity, Socialist Alternative and Socialist Alliance who adapt to the movement, playing down criticisms they should be raising as Leninists—to the extent that they raise them at all.

The Occupy movement started off as "Occupy Wall Street" which was inspired by the mass mobilisations in Tahrir Square Cairo. It all seemed so simple. One percent, bankers and capitalists created the crisis. Ninety nine percent suffer. It seemed logical that if we could get the ninety nine percent together, we could overthrow those one percent bad capitalists.. Unfortunately, revolution does not work that way.

Firstly, if you want to change the system, you have to fight more than one percent. We have to fight other capitalists, the bureaucracy, and the state. A big issue within the movement has been the cops. Are they or are they not part of the ninety nine

Extend the struggles! Militant actions cannot be successful if confined to one factory. All coalmine workers throughout the Bowen Valley must take action in defense of the workers of Norwich Park! The bosses will use any victory at Norwich Park as part of their antiunion offensive against all Queensland coal miners
Build a revolutionary communist party! The stalinists including the bureaucrats who share a Stalinist ideology will collaborate. Any collaboration will diffuse militancy and sellout jobs. These attacks will affect not just those in Norwich Park and Dysart but all coalminers throughout the Bowen Valley. They must be fought.

percent? Cops have taken a clear stand – against the movement. They have arrested, physically attacked and evicted "Occupy" camps in many cities. Some "Occupy" participants welcome the

cops or think they can be won over by supporting their campaigns for pay and conditions. This is dangerous folly!

Secondly, you will not get the support of the "ninety nine percent" by just declaring that you represent them. "Occupy" supporters claim they get plenty of public support. Even if true this support remains passive. To have any hope of beating the "one percent" you must have numbers on the picket line. Here we are talking about many thousands, in fact hundreds of thousands In no way did most of the "Occupy" groups get anything approaching that number.

The point is: how do we win over those sections of the population who are cynical, passive or even hostile to the movement? This has not fundamentally been addressed by the movement.

To do this you need a political programme which is what the movement rejects. For revolutionaries a political programme defines the interests of working people and oppressed as antagonistic to capital and organizes to overthrow capital, to smash the state. We then have to win over other sections of society including the middle class. We do this by showing that small farmers have more in common with a class conscious working class, fighting the system than with big capital and its system.

It is only when the working class is class conscious, politically fighting the system To do this we need politics, revolutionary politics. The “Occupy” movement consciously rejects politics. Unless these lessons are drawn then the movement won’t defeat their enemy.

French elections. The fascists gain ground

It looks as if the conservative President Sarkozy will only be a one term president. Francois Hollande of the Socialist Party looks like becoming President of France. There are many reasons for the swing to the left. It is a protest against the continuing economic crisis and against Sarkozy’s policies favouring the rich. It is a protest against the European Union. Many do not like Sarkozy and prefer Hollande’s more humane approach.

But a serious threat has emerged namely the rise of the extreme right, fascist Fronte Nationale. Their leader Marine Le Pen won about eighteen percent of the vote. This is the highest proportion of the vote the FN has recorded.

Fascism has a historic role. That role is mobilizing members of the middle class and privileged layers of the working class to smash the organized working class and bourgeois democracy. It acts as capitalism’s last line of defense. No doubt the FN has this objective.

COMMUNIST LEFT stands for:

The smashing of the capitalist state and its replacement with a workers state.

A revolutionary workers and small farmers government as opposed to a parliamentary government.

Building a political alternative to Labor, a revolutionary communist party.

A shortening of the working week without loss of pay until everyone is employed.

Self determination for Koori, Murrri, Nungah, other Black peoples and Torres Strait Islanders

The “Occupy” movement may have activated many into standing up against a blatantly unjust system. But the point is to beat the system and this it is unable to do.

However, in the mean time it can be extremely damaging, especially to those who are immigrants or of a different ethnic background. The FN, of course has a hard line against the Muslim religion, supporting a ban against the headscarf Islamic women wear.

Le Pen did not make it to the second round but she is in a powerful position. Both the Socialists and the conservatives must pick up FN votes in order to win. So how much will the candidates concede to win FN voters? We don’t know. But we say no concessions must be made.

Fascism is a dangerous movement which must be nipped in the bud. It is a major failing that it has been allowed to grow to this extent. A workers united front is required lest the fascists threaten the organized French workers movement.

Opposition to all immigration controls!

The socialisation of housework and child care!

International solidarity with those fighting imperialism!

Workers action to fight Australia’s participation in the US imperialist war drive.

For a Fifth Communist International!

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